2: Musters T-5 (1869-1870)1873
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In this plain, called by the Indians Gatchen-kaik or Rocky Hills, Crimè's illness caused us to remain encamped until March 21, during the greater part of which time I and several others were suffering from neuralgia and ulcerations in the mouth, caused I think, by the bad water we had to drink, perhaps also by the want of salt, which had become a very scarce commodity.

Friendly rivalry was kept up between the tribes in play, hunting, and other sports, in which fortune varied from one side to the other. Every other day I visited poor Crimè, whose groans might be heard at night accompanied by the chant of some old hag. The sick man always asked me how long he would live. I at first tried to persuade him that he would get well, but after a time, as he was really fast sinking, gave him to understand that he might live a month if he was lucky. I offered to open his leg and endeavour to cure him, but this he would not allow, stating that if he died under the operation it would go hard with the doctor, which was indeed true, so I gave up my intentions of performing a surgical operation.

Before we broke up the camp, a Valdivian and other Indians arrived from Cheoeque's, but brought little news, stating that the Manzaneros were still dispersed amongst the valleys of the Cordillera engaged in gathering the yearly harvest of apples and piñones: of these we had already received plenty from Foyel's people, who kept up a constant communication with their relations near the Rio Limay.

On the 21st all left the valley and travelled a few leagues through a diversified country. On the line of march cliffs, which stood out in the glens in irregular, picturesque manner, were of yellow and red sandstone, but to the westward black basaltic heights could be seen abutting on the plains, while in hunting over the higher ground masses of ironstone and igneous rock were met with scattered over the surface. We remained for the night in a valley called Changi, and, proceeding next day, arrived about noon at a large plain shut in by sandstone cliffs on the eastern side, at the northern

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through the heated surface the hair was burnt off their fetlocks, and they were nearly maddened with fright, so that it was a difficult feat for the riders without saddles or stirrups to keep their seats. Once I was somewhere near my horse's ears, but, more by good luck than good management, just escaped being thrown as it were into the fire. After the gale had partially moderated, I proceeded to inspect this place, and found that, although not, as I at first thought, absolutely on fire, the ground was smoking as if from internal combustion. The surface presented a crust of baked yellow clay, which yielding to the horses' feet, disclosed a black subsoil; there was no flame, but a thin white vapour issued from the ground. When I incautiously ventured a step on the treacherous crust, it gave way, but I managed to extricate myself with no further damage than burning my potro boots. The Indians stated that the fire had been originally caused some years previously by their having kindled the pasture higher up the valley, and that the ground had been burning ever since. It was impossible to discover whether there was any subjacent bed of combustible matter which might thus have been ignited; but as there are hot-wells and springs in the same range not many miles distant to the south-east, it seems more probably due to volcanic agency. The principal hot spring was described as a circular basin of about six feet in diameter, the water, of a temperature not so hot as to scald the hand, bubbling up through numerous holes in a clay bottom. In many of the surrounding hills there are lava and pumice of not extremely ancient formation; some of the hills have also an appearance of having been at a recent period the outlets of eruptive forces, which have scattered large shattered masses of rock over the sides of the extinct craters.

In this encampment I had a serious misunderstanding with our chief, which all but ended in a downright quarrel; but after consideration we agreed to make it up, as although on two occasions of danger he had left me to my fate, I thought

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312 Patricio during this day's journey pointed out to me a dry lagoon near which efforts had been made to sink a well for obtaining a permanent supply of water, but, although the shaft was of some depth, none had been reached, and the work had been given up in despair. It is a mystery even to the Indians where the guanacos, wild horses, puma, and other game that exist in this desert, find water, as these lagoons, depending entirely on the rainfall for a supply of water, must inevitably, in this country where little rain falls, be dry for many months in the year. No doubt springs exist in hitherto undiscovered places.

133 Before leaving the travesia, a few remarks, which cannot claim to be called a description, may be interesting.

This desert consists of a plateau about three hundred feet above the level of the valley of the Rio Negro, stretching to the southward more than thirty leagues to Valchita. Of its extent westward I have no precise information; but it narrows considerably in the interior, forming an irregular triangle, with its base on the coast, and its apex near the junction of the Rio Limay and the northern streams.

The soil is either clay or sand and gravel, with small stones strewn thickly over the surface; while the only vegetation met with consists of the bushes already mentioned, and scanty tufts of coarse grass.

It is much dreaded by travellers, and, after traversing it, I can well believe the stories current of people having perished on the passage; the track once lost would be very difficult to regain; while the want of water in the summer, and the danger of horses straying and leaving the traveller helpless, are both probable risks. With all our watchfulness, two horses strayed away and were lost. In the winter there is no fear of want of water; but the fatigue of travelling is at all times great, and the horses are almost worn out by the time that the desert is passed. It serves, therefore, as a barrier, protecting Patagones from all dangers of attack by the Indians from the south, who in their forays must descend

5: Bourne T-5 (1849) 1874
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through which I passed were viewed with a calmness that had been before unattainable, and which is now scarcely credible, on recollection. So true is it that our strength is unknown to ourselves till it is thoroughly tested.

The hope of immediate release, however, was at an end; my savage captors, it seemed, must be looked upon as for an indefinite period my masters and companions; and I had nothing at present to do but to divert myself by a study of their manners and habits; to consult my safety by a close study of their character, and of the ways and means by which so to adapt my deportment to it as to win their confidence, to disarm hostility, and to seize opportunities.

PATAGONIA, as it offered itself to my observation, more than answered the descriptions of geographers, — bleak, barren, desolate, beyond description or conception, — only to be appreciated by being seen. Viewed from the Straits of Magellan, it rises in gentle undulations or terraces. Far as the eye can reach, in a westerly direction, it assumes a more broken and hilly appearance, and long ranges of mountains, extending from north to south, divide the eastern from the western shore. The soil is of a light, sandy character, and bears nothing worthy the name of a tree. Low bushes, or underwood, are tolerably abundant, and in the valleys a coarse, wiry grass grows luxuriantly. Streams of water are rare. The natives draw their supplies principally from springs or pools in the valleys, the water of which is generally brackish and disagreeable.

The variety of animal is nearly as limited as that of vegetable productions. The guanaco, a quadruped allied to the lama, and with some resemblance to the camelopard,

DESCRIPTION OF THE SOUTHERN COAST OF THAT REGION OF THE SOUTH COMMONLY CALLED PATAGONIA

The harbor of Santa Elena is a good one for all types of ships and
133 is situated on the 40° line of southern latitude. Sweet water is to be found
only in a glade to the west, filled by the winter rains as they are held by
[312] a ridge which lies across the glade's mouth near the beach. Inland, some
four or five leagues, the Indians reported the presence of some small
[137 313] springs. All the terrain is rocky except for the small valleys, in which
there is good grass and an abundance of espinillo firewood. The Indian
[22] chief who rules this section is called Ayzo; his jurisdiction stretches up
to the harbor of San Gregorio. He said that from the coast westward
toward the mountains there are some 70 leagues of habitable land, but
the land beyond that limit is absolutely uninhabitable by man or beast.
136 Hares are very abundant here, being like small antelope and very good
to eat; quirquinchos, [type of armadillo--Translator] also good eating,
[415] have shells which the Indians use as pans or plates; pumas have flesh
which is very savory, juicy and tender, and is like [illegible] roasted breast of
a turkey; there are a few guanacos too, some partridges and many
[568] ostriches. The Indians subsist on all of these, as also on horse meat,
which they have in great abundance and which is their favorite food.
Fish, in which the harbor abounds, is of the kind which we call borriquete
and pejerey, both of which are delicious.

133 The harbor of San Gregorio is situated at 45° 4' latitude south.
It is not very secure and its entrance is bad owing to its rock strewn bot-
tom and weak anchorage. The terrain which surrounds it is rocky and
rugged; one must go inland some 5 leagues [65] before striking water.
The mountain chain is about as far from this harbor as it is from that of
[134] Santa Elena, according to the Indians. This land is even more sterile
[625] than the former. The Indian chief who controls these lands is called
136 Gorgona. The game and fish are the same as in the previous place but
[220] the Indians do not eat the fish since they do not know how to catch them
and lack the necessary implements for doing so. In the cove called
Camarones there is an abundance of shrimp, as there is also in San Julian
and Puerto Deseado, and a kind of fish called gallo; but as already men-
[313] tioned, the Indians do not make use of them. There is here quite a lot
of espinillo firewood, and the rock is very solid and hard.

The gulf of San Jose is south of cape Matas, which is at the same
133 latitude as San Gregorio; from the point at which its mouth begins to
cape Blanco, there are 50 leagues. The northern shores have been ex-
plored by small ships to a point about 40 leagues to the west. There are

133 many havens there, protected by numerous islands and sandbanks. The coast is not as high, but the land is even more barren than that of the [136 other harbors, there being neither water nor grass, although firewood is [312] not altogether lacking, especially inland. The Indians said that the gulf 313] continues toward the west almost up to the mountains, that some springs flow into it there and that it is impossible to cross the mountains to the other side. They added that there is much espinillo brushwood in the [487] region, going from north to south, through which they have cut paths in order to get through, and should they ever deviate from these paths, they become lost. The southern shores of the gulf, they say, are more arid than the northern, but the fauna is the same as in the others. The [622] Indian chiefs who rule this territory are two brothers, called Chaiguas and Enis.

Puerto Deseado is situated at 47° 48′ of southern latitude; it is a good harbor but of difficult entry because of the narrowness of its mouth and the violence of the currents which flow in it. The coast is [312 very high and craggy; there is firewood and in the gullies there are some 313] small springs of sweet but slightly brackish water, some 14 in all, which can take care of any need. Game is the same as it was in the other parts: [136] there are innumerable sea lions and seals and an abundance of guanacos. The chief who controls these lands is called Ulquiquenque; he said that [622] the mountain chain is about 20 "sleeps" from the harbor, which must be about 70 leagues, and also that it is impossible to cross over to the other side, that his people have never crossed nor seen other Indians cross the mountains. In this district there is white, black, red and other [135] colored rock, and a little marble in small broke[illegible]eces. [66] The [384] earth also is of various colors and the Indians use it to make their paints. [136] There are also many seals and sea lions on the islands in the haven.

The harbor of San Julian is located at 49° 21′ of southern latitude and is the best on the coast, although the entrance to it is difficult for an unpracticed person because of the bank at its mouth and two others which are inside. The terrain also is the best on the whole coast, not at all rocky and more fertile, as we found out when we were there the three years which the settlement lasted from 1781 to 1784 [sic]. The closest [312] source of water is about a league from the beach, and is made up of some wells filled by the overflow from a spring which lies about a league and a half away. There is ample firewood in all the dells, all of which [313 also abound in grass and water, the terrain being made up almost en- 137] tirely of such gullies, and of stoneless hills. The mountain chain is 70 leagues away toward the west, and at its base there are three cove-like depressions in each of which there is a lake fed by the snow which melts on the mountain tops. I explored this region at the foot of the mountains

133 entirely and could find no pass, it being impossible even for the animals
to cross over to the other side, all passages being closed off by snow
[484] most of which has frozen solid and is, as it were, petrified. This find-
ing made plausible the assertion which the Indians make to the effect
that they have never crossed the mountains here or in any of the other
places already named. From the first of the three lakes mentioned there
flows a small river which runs into the haven of Santa Cruz; from the
second, located to the south of the first, springs the stream which the
Indians call Chalia, which flows into the Rio Grande de Santa Cruz; the
last and southernmost of the three lakes gives birth to the Rio Grande de
Santa Cruz, which flows into the haven of the same name, situated at
622 50° 12' of southern latitude. The chief who lives in this district, which
comprises the land between Puerto Deseado and the Rio de Santa Cruz
[sic], is called Camelo, and we called him Julian. He is one of the
chiefs with the largest following in his nation; his lieutenant is a son-in-
law of his called Onos, and he lives in the vicinity of the Santa Cruz
lakes.

133 Fifteen leagues from the Santa Cruz river there is another stream,
fed by the mountain snows, which runs in that area and turns toward the
Straits of Magellan. This stream flows into the cove named Gallegos
and is not navigable, reports of other ancient travelers to the contrary.
At 52° of southern latitude is the Cabo de las Virgenes, and the Straits
of Magellan start there. The mountains come down so close to the very
Straits, at its mid point, that even here it is impossible to reach [67] the
[312] other side by land. There are here a number of small snow-fed streams,
[313] an abundance of firewood and good grasslands which support the infinite
136 number of guanacos that live in the region. The Indian chief who governs
137 these lands is called Coopan. He is one of those having the largest fol-
[622] lowing, but all his people travel on foot, the tents and small belongings
492 being transported by dogs. Only the chief and his women have horses,
484 which are supplied to them by their neighbor Camelo, chief of San Julian.
727 This state of affairs has existed for some years, in fact since Camelo in-
vaded this territory and took away all the horses. Since the invasion it
has been his policy to supply chief Coopan and his wives with horses, but
no one else, and in this way he is able to keep his southern neighbors
224 under his control. Horseless, they hunt guanacos on foot, and as there
136 are many of these animals they are able to live pretty well in this territory.
In Puerto Deseado and in San Julian a good many of these animals also
live, yet not as many, and there the Indians can hunt them with greater
east since they have horses; but then again, the Indians here in the more
136 southern part who lack horses are themselves more agile and robust. In

be ease the soul's distress somewhat until the decreed time comes around. They are so superstitious in this matter that some are persuaded that it is desirable to put a little food and valuables in the grave so that the souls of the deceased may eat and entertain themselves; others think that this is fruitless, believing that the idol will supply them with all that is necessary. This matter is ordered in each [78] family according to the opinion of the imposter witch doctor, who deceives himself and hoodwinks the others as he pleases, no notice being taken of his inconsistencies, even when his thoughts and his commands are seen to be continually at variance. These liars make the others believe that the idol makes signs with its hands, and that it speaks, and then they repeat what they say they have heard the idol say, before the people are present at the time when the witch doctor unwraps the idol, and they see with their own eyes that it is a lie, if the witch doctor says that it has spoken or gesticulated, that is enough for them to believe the thing blindly.

They are of the opinion that nothing they can do can offend the deity they worship in any way, and so they believe that the adversities and punishments which he sends them are not because they have deserved them because of their transgressions, but because the idol just gets it into its head to treat them badly. Thus the graciousness of this power consists in having good horses, health and peace, in finding plentiful game, and in the faithfulness of their neighbors.

The number of Indians who are here settled is about 4,000 persons. They occupy the territory on the coast which has already been indicated. They cannot leave this region because they are hemmed in on the east by the sea, on the north by the Rio Negro and the Pampas Indians of Buenos Aires, and on the west and south by the mountain chain which it is impossible to cross owing to its height and because it is covered with snow the year round. So forbidding are these mountains that they are to all intents uninhabited, even by birds.

In all this land there is absolutely no lumber for construction purposes, but there is an abundance of firewood on all hands, good for burning, and the greater part of the ground is covered with sabine, torbisco, thyme and gomieles. All the land is rugged and cut up into hills, gullies and valleys. One of these latter is to be found twenty leagues away from San Julian, and is a very pleasant place which the Indians call Oenna. There are in it innumerable springs with good water. In most of the gullies and valleys springs are to be met with at a distance of one, two, three or four leagues from the shore. It is improbable that these parts

313

313 LUMBERING--kinds of timber exploited; gathering of firewood; logging operations (e.g., felling, trimming, hauling); techniques and apparatus used; sawmills and pulp mills; economic importance of lumbering; organization of labor and production; forestry science, practices, and policy; etc. See also:

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Conservation policies 185
Silviculture 245
Paper manufacture 280
Woodworking 322
Building supplies industries 330
Industrial structures 348
Fuel 372
Lumbering machinery 402
Tools 412
Moving of heavy weights 482
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During our stay the women went to the woods to cut fresh poles for the toldos, and the men brought back from the wooded country a description of fungus, which, when dried, forms an excellent tinder, of considerable value amongst the Indians, as there are only a few spots where it is to be obtained. After some days spent in this pleasant neighbourhood, as the supply of guanaco was failing, we marched over the barren range of hills, and passing a lagoon of considerable extent below the hills, encamped on the other side of them, by the side of a smaller one, in a place called 'Gogomenykaik.'

During the hunt I had singled out a guanaco, and was in full chase across the upper pampa, which was covered with stunted bushes and tufts of grass, when the quarry suddenly disappeared, as if the earth had swallowed him. The next moment my horse halted in mid-gallop, with its fore-feet on the edge of a precipitous descent which shelved away without any warning. Below was a long beautiful glen, with a pool of water glistening among the trees which filled it, but did not rear their topmost boughs above the level of the pampa. Here the guanaco had taken refuge, and as the descent was impracticable for a horse, I could only gaze longingly down into the fairy-like scene, and turn away to join the circle, remembering that it was only too easy to lose oneself by delay. Of this an instance occurred the same day, for one of the Chilians did not appear at the fireside when the hunting was completed. At first no heed was bestowed on him, as it was natural to suppose that he had chased a herd of guanaco to some distance, and was detained taking off the skins; but when at sunset he was still missing, some dry grass was fired, for the purpose of directing him to our camp. The following morning he had not appeared when we started to hunt, myself going as pointsman with Orkeke. We galloped for some distance over the plain, and halted in a hollow, where we came on six young skunks outside their parental burrow, into which they quickly vanished on our

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Tehuelche friends. The gloriously warm weather, which, for a wonder, continued during our stay at Lilly-haik, as this station was named, rendered our residence there most enjoyable, and we revelled in the simple pleasures of the woods; sometimes three or four of us would go across the brook, and traversing a plain occupied by the horses and cattle, search for strawberries amongst the ravines of the neighbouring mountains, or climb the tall trees and gather the yellow insipid fungus adhering to the branches, or lie down amongst the wild violets and enjoy the *dolce far niente*. These Indian children of nature showed themselves as thoroughly able to appreciate the idleness of gathering fruit and flowers and roaming in the woods as school children on a holiday ramble. On one occasion Casimiro and several others proceeded in search of wood wherewith to construct saddles, and we felled several fine trees, selecting and cutting off suitable pieces of timber. It was hard work with blunt axes, but Indians are indefatigable when they once commence a task. After my spell at the axe I wandered off with a companion into the thicker forest in search of fungus to make tinder. Of this we found little, but thirst soon made us seek for water, and discover a delicious ice-cold rivulet, embowered with currant bushes bearing ripe fruit. Here we remained a short time smoking and picking currants, recumbent on the mossy turf, till a shout in the distance warned us that our companions were returning. On our way home we killed one of the flat toad-like lizards which the Indians regard as devilish; we also caught a young skunk, which Casimiro wished to keep as a pet for the children, but at my instance let it go and enjoy the delights of freedom. 'Fancy a tame skunk!' some may exclaim; but in Hinchel's toldo there were two skunks which, perfectly tame and as playful as kittens, ran about everywhere, never using their offensive powers, and sometimes getting lost for an hour or two caused a dreadful outcry to be raised by the children until they were found.

The hill slopes were a garden of calceolarias, alyssum, tiny

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[232] chief who rules this section is called Ayno; his jurisdiction stretches up
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133 Fifteen leagues from the Santa Cruz river there is another stream, fed by the mountain snows, which runs in that area and turns toward the Straits of Magellan. This stream flows into the cove named Gallegos and is not navigable, reports of other ancient travelers to the contrary. At 52° of southern latitude is the Cabo de las Vírgenes, and the Straits of Magellan start there. The mountains come down so close to the very Straits, at its mid point, that even here it is impossible to reach [67] the other side by land. There are here a number of small snow-fed streams, an abundance of firewood and good grasslands which support the infinite number of guanacos that live in the region. The Indian chief who governs these lands is called Coopan. He is one of those having the largest following, but all his people travel on foot, the tents and small belongings being transported by dogs. Only the chief and his women have horses, which are supplied to them by their neighbor Camelo, chief of San Julian. This state of affairs has existed for some years, in fact since Camelo invaded this territory and took away all the horses. Since the invasion it has been his policy to supply chief Coopan and his wives with horses, but no one else, and in this way he is able to keep his southern neighbors under his control. Horseless, they hunt guanacos on foot, and as there are many of these animals they are able to live pretty well in this territory. In Puerto Deseado and in San Julian a good many of these animals also live, yet not as many, and there the Indians can hunt them with greater ease since they have horses; but then again, the Indians here in the more southern part who lack horses are themselves more agile and robust. In

4: De Viedma--? G-6 (1780-1784) 1837 1015 Telmelche SH5

462 women be sick, for she must somehow find the strength to do all this.
[340 In addition to these things she must sew the tent together, it being made
281] always of the skins of full grown guanacos, and all the other skins which
go to make bedding and clothing, these usually being made of hare,
skunk or newly born or unborn guanacos. These small guanacos are col-
lected and skinned in the springtime, and those in excess of the local
need are bartered with the Indians of Rio Negro for horses, clothing,
beaded halters and knives, which the latter acquire by trading or on their
438 periodic invasions of the Buenos Aires frontier. The fact is that the
Indians whom we are here describing have never had dealings with Spaniards
until the present date, nor have they seen any Spanish towns, nor do these
regions contain iron, metal, brass, tools or arms - all these things must
be acquired by the above mentioned trading. The women, in order to
[281 sew the skins together use awls which they make from the iron the Rio
283] Negro Indians give them, and instead of thread they use nerves which
they collect, as needed, from the legs of ostriches.

622 The chieftainship is hereditary and his authority absolute in re-
484 gard to shifting the camp site in search of the game upon which they live.
203 When the chief thinks that it is time to move he shouts out a speech in a
loud voice from his tent the evening before the move is to be made. All
the others listen to him with great attention, each from his own tent.
He tells them that a move must be made on the following day, he assigns
a time for rounding up [Ti] the horses, for striking the tents and for
starting out; no one answers him, and at the assigned hour all are ready
484 as he has ordered. The women travel along paths which lead to the
watering places where they are to stay; they are responsible for all the
baggage. The men, after the women have got under way, spread out
229 and take their places in the surrounding region in order to enclose the
guanacos and entangle them with the bolas as they attempt to break away.
The guanacos cannot be chased, for they dash away headlong at such
speed that no horse or dog can catch them. Once brought down by the
bolas the dogs assist the Indians to finish them off. The chief himself
assigns the position each Indian must take for the guanaco hunt, for which
[622] in testimony of his overlordship, he is given part of the catch. The chief
never takes active part in the hunt and does nothing other than go from
484 stand to stand. The longest day's journeys are of four leagues. On ar-
riving at the assigned camping place the women put up the tents, col-
[313 lect firewood and have everything ready for the coming of the men. The
462] latter, when the sun sets, go to their tents, and never have I seen any of
them arrive at their tents after nightfall. If the march is to be continued
on the following day the chief harangues his people in the same manner

he ease the soul's distress somewhat until the decreed time comes around. They are so superstitious in this matter that some are persuaded that it is desirable to put a little food and valuables in the grave so that the souls of the deceased may eat and entertain themselves; others think that this is fruitless, believing that the idol will supply them with all that is necessary. This matter is ordered in each [78] family according to the opinion of the imposter witch doctor, who deceives himself and hoodwinks the others as he pleases, no notice being taken of his inconsistencies, even when his thoughts and his commands are seen to be continually at variance. These liars make the others believe that the idol makes signs with its hands, and that it speaks, and then they repeat what they say they have heard the idol say, before the people are present at the time when the witch doctor unwraps the idol, and they see with their own eyes that it is a lie, if the witch doctor says that it has spoken or gesticulated, that is enough for them to believe the thing blindly.

They are of the opinion that nothing they can do can offend the deity they worship in any way, and so they believe that the adversities and punishments which he sends them are not because they have deserved them because of their transgressions, but because the idol just gets it into its head to treat them badly. Thus the graciousness of this power consists in having good horses, health and peace, in finding plentiful game, and in the faithfulness of their neighbors.

The number of Indians who are here settled is about 4,000 persons. They occupy the territory on the coast which has already been indicated. They cannot leave this region because they are hemmed in on the east by the sea, on the north by the Rio Negro and the Pampas Indians of Buenos Aires, and on the west and south by the mountain chain which it is impossible to cross owing to its height and because it is covered with snow the year round. So forbidding are these mountains that they are to all intents uninhabited, even by birds.

In all this land there is absolutely no lumber for construction purposes, but there is an abundance of firewood on all hands, good for burning, and the greater part of the ground is covered with sabine, torbisco, thyme and gomieles. All the land is rugged and cut up into hills, gullies and valleys. One of these latter is to be found twenty leagues away from San Julian, and is a very pleasant place which the Indians call Oenna. There are in it innumerable springs with good water. In most of the gullies and valleys springs are to be met with at a distance of one, two, three or four leagues from the shore. It is improbable that these parts